

EAST FORK FIRE

FIRE INFORMATION FACT SHEET

Date: August 26, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Information Officer: Kathy Bushnell, 406-422-7164

Incident: East Fork Fire

Detected/Reported: August 22, 2012

Cause: Lightning

Location: T16N, R10W, Section 36, approximately one mile inside the southern boundary of the Scapegoat Wilderness on the Helena National Forest-Lincoln Ranger District

Incident Commander: Jarel Kurtz

Approximate Size: 5 acres

Fire Update:

The fire did not significantly spread yesterday; however there continues to be active fire behavior with surface burning and some isolated tree torching. The East Fork Fire is still burning within the boundary of the Scapegoat Wilderness in contiguous sub-alpine fir and dense, dead timber stands. The strategy remains to safely manage this fire for suppression within the Wilderness boundary, primarily containing the southern flank and preventing further spread to the south.

Today fire personnel will continue to monitor the fire activity, as well as evaluate the nearby area for potential safety zones and escape routes. Temperatures are predicted reach the upper 80s today, with low relatively humidity levels between 14-19% and southeast winds up to 10 mph; isolated thunderstorms, with minimal moisture, are expected to reach the area later this afternoon.

Safety is the #1 priority for all incidents. Due to the many safety concerns—which include a lack of escape routes, no nearby accessible safety zone, predicted weather conditions, steep terrain, dense, heavy timber and snags in and around the fire area, and active fire behavior—the decision was made that no firefighters will be placed on the fireline at this time.

No structures are threatened and no evacuations are in effect at this time.

Closures: For public safety due to the fire activity, below is a list of closures in the area:

- **Arrastra/Porcupine Basin Trail #482:** entire trail
- **Trail #488:** entire trail
- **Dry Creek/Meadow Creek Trail #483:** from the beginning in T15N, R10W, Section 17 to Southern Shore of Meadow Lake in T16N, R9W, Section 18

Fire danger level: High

More information: visit Inciweb at www.inciweb.org or call Kathy Bushnell at 406-422-7164

